

Priceless Baby 31

Chapter 31 - An Annoying Stumbling Block

"How could you say that? The Xu family will always be your home."

Xu Xinrou donned an expression of false concern. "You should at least go back and visit grandfather and grandmother. And dad, too. They've really been missing you."

"Oh, I will. If I have time."

The only person that she really wanted to see was her grandfather, but she wouldn't be able to go visit him for the time being. She wanted to wait until she had settled down.

"Do you have a place to live now?" Xu Xinrou asked.

"I'm staying at a friend's house."

Xu Xiyan turned away. She had no intention of continuing this conversation.

It suited Xu Xinrou's interests that Xu Xiyan would rather live at a friend's house than go home. She hoped that her sister would never return.

Xu Xinrou glanced at the number tag on Xu Xiyan's chest.

"Jing Xi? You changed your name? No. 222? So you're here to audition, too? I didn't know you wanted to be an actor. Which role are you gunning for? I could put in a good word with the production crew. After all, you are my sister. My recommendation could go a long way."

"It's okay," Xu Xiyan said bluntly. "I don't need anyone's help in getting this role."

When Xu Xinrou was about to open her mouth to say something, her assistant Wen Li approached.

"Xin Rou, it's time for your audition! Let's go!"

"Well, Yan Yan, if you need anything, just come straight to your sister. My number is still the same." Xu Xinrou sighed, putting on her sunglasses, and following Wen Li out of the waiting hall.

Before entering the audition hall, Xu Xinrou turned to Wen Li, speaking in a hushed voice.

"Go to the crew and tell them not to let No. 222 pass through the audition, no matter what."

With that, Wen Li was off. Xu Xinrou wanted to stamp out Xu Xiyan's chances of success as soon as possible, afraid that she might surpass her in the future.

Xu Xiyan's sudden appearance after five years presented a risk. Once she made her debut, she would no doubt be a very attractive newcomer.

Xu Xinrou was Juxing Entertainment's front-line super star. There was no room in the Xu family for another celebrity, and she would never allow Xu Xiyan to snatch her opportunities away by joining the entertainment industry.

Xu Xinrou had applied for the female lead role, and therefore was able to go into the audition first. She entered the audition hall and ten minutes later, she came out again.

She was visibly upset; she hadn't been selected for the female lead role, which had been taken by Qi Liya. Moreover, she had barely managed to land the supporting actress role. It was very disappointing.

As long as Qi Liya was present, Xu Xinrou wouldn't be able to beat her. Qi Liya was an annoying stumbling block which would be difficult to get over.

Qi Liya was from Yunhai Entertainment, and Xu Xinrou was from Juxing Entertainment. Because of this, she always felt inferior to Qi Liya.

Although Xu Xinrou was Juxing Entertainment's star actress, the perks and benefits she had been receiving from them were still worse than those received by the ordinary actors in Yunhai Entertainment.

Xu Xinrou's ultimate goal was to join Yunhai Entertainment. They could give her a better future than Juxing Entertainment, granting her access to a vast network of connections within the international entertainment industry. She wanted to become an international movie star.

I don't want to spend a lifetime in a small company like Juxing Entertainment, she thought. She was going to get her father to help her connect with Yunhai Entertainment and further her career.

Hmph! When that time came, she would certainly surpass Qi Liya, no matter how strong Qi Liya seemed now.

Xu Xinrou left the audition hall in a foul mood, with her assistants close behind.

Meanwhile, Xu Xiyan had been waiting quietly, watching the other candidates complete their auditions one by one...but the auditions were nearing an end, and they still hadn't called her number.

Over 300 numbers had been called. Did she miss hearing her own? What was going on?

Chapter 32: Meddling Behind the Scenes

Xu Xiyan couldn't wait any longer. She went to the registration desk and asked about the problem, yet the staff wasn't really sure what was going on. They told her to wait, promising to help her after the auditions had ended.

And so Xu Xiyan waited.

When the auditions were finished, she returned to seek help, only this time they told her to go home, that the audition had finished.

What just happened?

Why hadn't they called her number, 222?

She was eliminated without even having the chance to participate. What kind of logic was that?

Didn't they say that this would be a nationwide, mass-audition? That it would be the fairest and the most transparent process around?

Xu Xiyan was incredibly discouraged, and confused about why she had been eliminated, but everything became clear when Xu Xinrou came to mind.

Could it be that Xu Xinrou meddled behind the scenes?

Did she fake kindness, pretending to want to help, then ask the person in charge to take me off the list? That's the only answer!

The Xu Xinrou she knew wouldn't even take a chance with having to tolerate Xu Xiyuan succeeding in showbiz, stealing all her resources.

Xu Xiyuan was terribly unsatisfied. She had spent so long preparing for this day, and she had waited for hours, only to be eliminated without explanation.

With her unsatisfied heart, she chased after the crew outside the building and kept pressuring them.

"Come on, man. Just give me one chance. Let me see the person in charge, will you?"

"I can't help you," said one of the crew members, shaking her off. "The audition has ended. Just wait for another audition!"

"See?" he continued, pointing toward a van that was about to pull away. "The director and producer are leaving."

Xu Xiyuan noticed that the black van's tires had begun to turn. The van was leaving its parking spot.

The only thing that was on Xu Xiyuan's mind at that moment was that she had to meet with the person in charge. Without hesitation, she ran towards the van. Too late. The van was already pulling out of the parking lot.

Xu Xiyuan found an electric scooter owned by some pizza delivery guy. She grabbed the handles of the bike and sped after the van.

The van ran smoothly on the road, while behind it, the electric scooter barely had enough horsepower to keep up.

Xu Xiyuan turned the throttle as far as it could go, and finally caught up with the van as it approached a corner, and without any hesitation, Xu Xiyuan jumped off the bike and landed on the van's roof.

She laid as flat as she could and gripped tightly on the van's roof to prevent her from falling off.

Hearing the loud bang on the roof, the van's driver made a quick turn and stopped abruptly.

Xu Xiyuan was thrown off the roof, her face scratching the windshield as she fell.

The driver jumped out of his seat when he saw Xu Xiyuan come flying from above.

"Di-Di-Director...I think I just hit someone!"

"F**k."

Unable to control his emotions, Huang Guoqiang cursed under the flu mask he'd worn. He had been dealing with frustrating affairs for the past few days, and now another had just found its way to his doorstep.

If the person was severely injured, this would not just be settled as a simple accident in court.

Everyone in the car was terrified. They had seen a person jump onto the van's roof with their own eyes, and then watched as the person was thrown off.

They had no idea if the person was okay. Huang Guoqiang was about to ask the driver to go down and take a look when a face with perfect features appeared in front of them, smiling.

"..." The people on the car were speechless.

No one could believe their eyes. The stunt that they had witnessed a few moments ago was actually pulled off by this charming woman.

Out of breath, Xu Xiyan ran to the window and knocked on it.

"Director! Can you give me another chance? I was here for the audition..."

Chapter 33: Xu Xiyan, Well Done!

"Mr. Huang! Mr. Huang! Can you please give me a chance? I am number 222, but nobody called my number. Mr. Huang, I've been desperately chasing your van, please give me a chance..."

Seeing that she was sweating hard and talking normally, everyone realized the girl who'd been hit wasn't injured. They breathed a sigh of relief.

Xu Xiyan did not recognize Huang Guoqiang, as he had worn a flu mask, and she continued to beg.

But Huang Guoqiang did recognize and remember her. She was the one who had intruded on his lunch with Qi Liya earlier.

She had a striking appearance, so it was easy to remember her at a glance.

Huang Guoqiang interrupted her.

"You were at the mass-audition? Which role are you auditioning for?"

"Yao Yue. The role I went online to apply for the mass-audition was Yao Yue."

Xu Xiyan was almost bursting with joy as the director spoke. Was he willing to give her a chance?

Oh, the character is a palace maiden, the director thought.

Judging by her looks, this woman is more than qualified to play the part.

Huang Guoqiang understood her request and decided on the spot.

"Good. Yao Yue is yours. You will report directly to the production crew next Wednesday."

Directly...report? Huh? Doesn't he want to see my performance?

The surprise caught Xu Xiyan like a delicious pie to the face.

Huang Guoqiang's assistant handed Xu Xiyan a business card.

Xu Xiyan was so happy that she felt like jumping up and down as she took the business card, bowing at him repeatedly in gratitude.

"Thank you, Mr. Huang! Thank you, Mr. Huang..."

"Goodbye, Mr. Huang!" Xu Xiyan waved as the van drove away. She was filled with joy, finally believing that opportunities will go to those who prepare and persevere.

But in reality, opportunities will always be given to the fearless and the thick-skinned.

Xu Xiyan, well done! You did it!

In filming, there was rarely a shortage of extras, but the reason why Huang Guoqiang had been so ready to give her a role was the way she'd risked her life in her determination to chase his van. The other, bigger reason was that he was afraid that she would spread gossip of his date with Qi Liya.

If he could keep her mouth shut by offering her a minor role, why not?

After Xu Xiyan had successfully landed the role, she rushed home. She saw Fang Xiaocheng and Ying Bao fiddling at the computer, installing a software for livestreaming.

Ever since Fang Xiaocheng found out that Ying Bao had been doing livestreams, she had become fascinated by the idea, and began looking into livestreaming, herself. She couldn't wait to start one with Ying Bao, too.

Fang Xiaocheng held Ying Bao's little hand and said, "My dear little cherry, can you teach Auntie how to do a livestream? I'll let you sell whatever you want in Auntie Orange's flower shop, and we'll make lots of lots of moneys together! And then we'll go buy you the best daddy ever, okay?"

The little cutie couldn't resist the temptation to buy a daddy. She happily agreed, "Yes! Yes! Tonight's livestream, I will do with Mommy! You can watch us and learn, and then you will try. We'll make a new team called "The Fyoot Team, okay?"

Fang Xiaocheng didn't understand Ying Bao's childish babbling, "What? What? The Fyoot Team?"

Sometimes the things Ying Bao said were difficult to understand, so Xu Xiyan would need to step in and explain her words.

"She meant fruit. The Fruit Team."

"..." Fang Xiaocheng realized what Ying Bao had been saying and laughed, "Oh my little cherry, you are so talented! Yes, cherry and orange! We are the Fruit Team! Yeah!"

Fang Xiaocheng raised her hand and gave the little cutie a high-five. They had such good chemistry.

Xu Xiyan came over with a plate of fruit.

"How was the audition?" asked Fang Xiaocheng.

Chapter 34: I Want a Boyfriend That's Loyal

Xu Xiyan cleared her throat and said, "Everything went well. I passed. The shooting will begin next Wednesday,"

"Oh. Congratulations!" said Fang Xiaocheng. "I knew you could it."

Xu Xiyan remembered that somehow, she would have to tell Fang Xiaocheng about her personal assistant job for Huo Shenyun, but she was reluctant to tell her the details. So she kept it vague.

"Oh, right. I've found myself a new place to live. We'll be moving in two days."

"Why so urgent? Since you're already back, just stay a little longer. Of course, I want to play with little Cherry for a little while longer too."

Fang Xiaocheng pinched Ying Bao's chubby cheek. She didn't want them to leave so soon.

"Aren't you dating Dazhi? Won't we be a bother if we stay here?"

In truth, Xu Xiyan already had everything planned out. She'd move into one of Huo Yunshen's houses, herself. She couldn't let him meet Ying Bao yet, so she'd be sending Ying Bao to live with her great-grandfather.

"It's fine. I'll just tell Dazhi to buzz off, no biggie."

Xu Xiyan was really touched by Fang Xiaocheng's gesture, yet she understood that Huo Yunshen would not let her go if she didn't move in as soon as possible. And so, she kept the lie alive.

"I know. But I've already found a place and paid the rent. It'll be a waste if I don't go. We can still meet up and see each other, even once I've moved there, you know?"

Fang Xiaocheng knew Xu Xiyan well enough to understand that she didn't like to owe people anything. Thus, she gave up on persuading her.

"Fine. Fine. Go pack your stuff, but Ying Bao stays with me. You can come back for her once you've settled everything over there."

This actually might not be that bad, thought Xu Xiyan. Ying Bao is quite fond of Fang Xiaocheng, she has gotten used to her by now. Fang Xiaocheng also likes her a lot, and she's willing to take care of her for me for the time being. Perfect!

Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. Xu Xiyan stood up and went to answer. It was Fang Xiaocheng's boyfriend, Wang Dazhi.

The same old Wang Dazhi. Your typical I.T. guy. It was not long ago that he had opened a small network company with his friend.

He and Fang Xiaocheng had met in their university days. They'd been dating for over seven years, and their relationship was still quite strong.

Wang Dazhi was drenched, panting outside the door. When he saw that it was Xu Xiyan who opened the door, he smiled.

"Hi Xu Xiyan. Is Chengcheng in?"

"Of course, Mr. Wang," replied Xu Xiyan jokingly.

"Stop it with the honorifics. Just call me Dazhi like you used to," said Wang Dazhi as he scratched the back of his head.

"Hahahaha, sure thing. What's with the sweat? Hurry up and come in." Xu Xiyao pulled open the door and let him in.

As soon as Wang Dazhi went into the house, he quickly ran to Fang Xiaocheng's side like a loyal dog.

"Chengcheng, what's wrong? Did something happen?"

As soon as he had gotten Fang Xiaocheng's urgent call, he left all his work behind and rushed to her house on his electric scooter. He was worried that Fang Xiaocheng might've gotten into some sort of trouble.

Fang Xiaocheng noticed that Wang Dazhi was covered in sweat and got a towel for him.

"It's nothing serious. My computer is laggy, can you help me fix it? Oh, and while you're at it, could you help me set up the live streaming for Ying Bao and me?"

As soon as he heard that Fang Xiaocheng was fine, he let out a sigh of relief and smiled.

"Of course. Leave everything to me."

Ugghh! I'm going blind from the brightness of their love!

The sight of Wang Dazhi caring so deeply for Fang Xiaocheng made Xu Xiyao a little envious of her.

For most of the time, Xu Xiyao admired her best friend for having met a guy who would love her with all he had, in a world where this kind of man was so hard to come by.

Looking back at her own romantic histories, none of them were how a relationship should be.

Will I even find myself a loyal boyfriend like Wang Dazhi?

Chapter 35: He Finally Got A Reply

Xu Xiyao realized that Wang Dazhi was a computer expert, and could answer some of her questions.

"Dazhi, can I ask you something? If a chat account was hacked, can it still be recovered?"

For Wang Dazhi, the subject was a piece of cake.

"Of course you can get it back."

"Really?" Xu Xiyao was surprised. "I used to have an account which was hacked. Can you try and get it back for me?"

"Sure. Give me your account ID. I'll help you recover it after I fix the computer."

Xu Xiyao wrote her account ID on a sticky note and handed it to Wang Dazhi. Wang Dazhi took the note and went into Fang Xiaocheng's study.

Having an IT professional around really made a difference. Within half an hour, Wang Dazhi had not only repaired the desktop computer and installed the required live streaming equipment, but he had also recovered Xu Xiyao's compromised chat account.

He came out of the study and returned the sticky note to Xu Xiyan. "This is the new password I've set for the time being. After you log in, you can change it, yourself."

"Okay, thank you so much Dazhi."

"You're welcome." Wang Dazhi chuckled as he rubbed the back of his head.

Xu Xiyan logged into her account with the new password. After modifying the password, she logged into the chat homepage.

She found that the friends she had added before were still on the contact list, and there were red circles with numbers in them, signifying the unread messages that they had sent her.

Most of them were messages from her patients and holiday greetings, but some were asking why Miss Yim was not online anymore, and where Miss Yim had gone.

Xu Xiyan noticed that one of her patients, Wing, had sent her the most messages. Thousands of messages.

Xu Xiyan never would have thought that, after her account was hacked two years ago, Wing would continue leaving messages for her. But he had been reporting his progress and efforts to her every few days.

[Miss Yim, this is the third week I'm doing rehabilitation. I am not as depressed as before. Now I have the courage to look up at the blue sky.]

[Miss Yim, I don't know why you didn't return my messages. Am I bothering you? Other than you, I don't have any friends who I can talk to. Can I continue to chat with you in the future?]

[Miss Yim, I went to the cinema today and saw a movie called "The Stars on Earth." It is a story about a child with autism and it was so touching. Every lonely soul will eventually find someone who understands him. Thank you for understanding me, too!]

[Miss Yim, I have been training for two hours today. Although it was very tiring, I feel that I've gained a lot and I feel great. I will not give up!]

[Miss Yim, today is my birthday...]

[Miss Yim, this is the second year of my rehabilitation. Although I have yet to stand up, I am now much better than before and can live independently.]

Xu Xiyan spent a lot of time reading all the messages, but she only sent Wing one in reply:

[Sorry Wing! My account was hacked two years ago and I just recovered it. I've seen all the messages you sent to me and I am very touched! Thank you for trusting and remembering me! I can feel your hard work and determination. It's been such a long time since we have talked. How are you now?]

After the message was sent out, the phone of Huo Yunshen—who was far away at Yunhai Entertainment—beeped as a message notification appeared on the home screen.

He glanced at it. In disbelief, he put his work aside and picked up his phone to look at the message.

A reply from Miss Yim?

After more than two years, he had finally gotten a reply.

After reading the message, Huo Yunshen finally understood. So that's why.

Chapter 36: I Want to Meet Her in the Future

So that's the reason why Miss Yim never replied to me. Her ID was hacked.

As he saw Miss Yim's active status go from grey to green, Huo Yunshen began to cheer deep in his heart.

Finally!

He was finally able to contact the person who had pulled him back from darkness, the person who had encouraged him and cared for him.

Huo Yunshen smiled as he quickly composed a reply message.

[Miss Yim! Thank god that you've finally replied to my message. I'm actually doing quite well right now. I have my own business and hobbies now, and I've finally found the girl I was looking for! My life is filled with excitement. I want to express my gratitude to you again for the encouragements and help that you've given me when I've needed it the most. Thank you.]

After a few moments, Miss Yim replied:

[Congratulations! I will always pray for you. You'll definitely get better. Keep on fighting, Wing!]

[Thank you! 😊]

As soon as he put down his phone, Huo Yunshen's heart fluttered. He was finally able to get in touch with Miss Yim. It would definitely be better than going through all of this alone. He had finally found a friend who would accompany him through the journey.

In that instance, Huo Yunshen thought of meeting Miss Yim, face-to-face. He prayed to God to allow him to meet the one person who had been a mentor and a friend to him.

Huo Yunshen thought to himself, If one day I'm able to walk again, I'll definitely want to meet her!

In Fang Xiaocheng's study room, Xu Xiyan and Ying Bao were preparing for their first livestream since they'd returned home.

Ying Bao wore a cherry red dress and a cherry hairpin. The hairpin was a gift from Fang Xiaocheng. The cute little girl sat in front of the camera, her beautiful dark eyes looking up and down.

Fans started to join the live streaming. Pew...Pew... A few hardcore fans began to send voice messages and gifts.

[Voice Message: Cherry, oh Cherry. Where have you been? I've missed you so much.]

[Gift: Shishui Liunian has sent you 60 Flowers.]

[Voice Message: Where have you been, my little Cherry? It's been so long!]

[Message: Cherry, what are you going to perform today?]

[Voice Message: Oh my cute little Cherry, will you sing this big sister a song?]

[Gift: Zhexian Langman Du has sent you a Barbie Doll.]

[Gift: Be Chunqing Xiao Nvzi has sent you a Chocolate.]

[Voice Message: Hi Cherry, were you serious when you said you were returning to Zstan? Which city will you be living in? This auntie will bring you some tasty treats when she visits you.]

From the moment the live streaming started, messages and gifts kept coming in.

After listening to all the voice messages, Ying Bao turned off the voice function. She picked up the cartoon microphone and turned toward the audience.

The cute little girl was a master of posing. She faced the camera and straightened herself up before greeting the audience.

"Hello. It's me, the little girl who's selling succulent, Cherry Baby! I'm finally back to Zstan. I've missed all of you, too."

"Today I'm very thrilled to announce that we'll be having a two-episode special edition live streaming to celebrate my return to Zstan. I'll also be introducing all of you to a new friend in the next episode."

Ying Bao's smiled for the audience as two cute dimples appeared on either side of her cheeks. With just a simple act, gifts started to pour in from the fans.

"Today I'll be recommending this succulent in my hand!"

The little girl still wasn't able to pronounce succulent correctly.. But her way was so much cuter.

She showed the combination of succulents in the pot and explained.

"This combination has a beautiful name. It's "Alice in Succulent." Hahaha. My mum was the one who thought of the name. She really is a genius and a babe. What? You guys want to meet her? Mummyyyy..."

Chapter 37: Her Words Were Moving

Cherry Baby hollered, and shortly after, a person in a pink rabbit costume came into view. After that, the auctioning widget appeared onscreen, too.

The starting bid for "Alice in Succuland" was set at 20 Yuan, with a 5 Yuan increment for each increasing bid.

Rabbit Mommy waved at everyone, then turned to Cherry Baby.

[Hey, Baby, why are you selling succulents every time you're on here?]

Cherry Baby: [Because Baby wants to make money!]

Rabbit Mommy: [But you're still so young! What do you need the money for?]

Cherry Baby: [Baby needs the money to help Mommy, and also to buy a daddy! You said a daddy would be really expensive, so we need lots of lots of money to buy one! So Baby has to earn lots of money now and buy the bestest daddy in the world who'll never leave us, ever!]

Cherry Baby took out a piggy bank as she explained, pouring the coins out and counting them.

The way Cherry Baby counted her money was so adorable, but the words she had just said were incredibly moving.

From her childish words, one could see that Cherry Baby had grown up in a single-parent family, living only with her mother. The little girl was naively optimistic and very eager to obtain the love of a father.

Her speech was so moving that the price of the succulent plant skyrocketed with each bid. When the livestream ended five minutes later, "Alice in Succuland" was sold at 2265 Yuan.

The price of similar succulent plants on other e-commerce sites was about 200 Yuan. Cherry Baby's sale of the pot of succulents at the price of 2265 Yuan was an impressive feat.

Fang Xiaocheng, who was waiting beside them, watched the messages that kept appearing on the screen, and all the gifts and rewards and the revenue rolling in from the auction. She was convinced that doing livestreams was much better than selling flowers at her store.

After Cherry Baby and Rabbit Mommy's livestream had ended, Fang Xiaocheng rushed over to them.

"Wow, I really see it now! Livestreaming is so profitable. You guys are amazing!"

Xu Xiyan took off the rabbit suit and said to Fang Xiaocheng, "Go change into a costume. You can try an episode with Ying Bao later."

"Okay, okay!" Fang Xiaocheng ran off to change into her specially prepared orange suit.

The second livestream began.

The cute little baby showed her face, flashing a row of beautiful, white little teeth as she smiled.

[Hullo everyone! I am the succie selling girl, Cherry Baby. Before Baby introduces a new friend, I would like to promote a beautiful pot of succies! Look in my hands!]

Ying Bao held up a pot of succulents: [Its name is "The Succulent Knights." Isn't it very cute? Okay, next, I'm going to introduce Orange! No, she's not the kind of orange that you eat!]

After showing off the succulent plant, the auctioning widget appeared and the bidding started again. Ying Bao then invited Fang Xiaocheng to appear.

Fang Xiaocheng was nervous, as it was her livestream debut, and her palms were sweating. Fortunately, she had worn a large orange-shaped costume over her head, so no one could see who she was.

"This is my Auntie Orange. She is a very good person and I like her very much."

They had discussed beforehand that Fang Xiaocheng was to be introduced as Ying Bao's aunt.

Ying Bao turned to look at Fang Xiaocheng. Fang Xiaocheng froze for a few seconds before she reacted. It was her turn to talk to everyone.

After Ying Bao had finished introducing Orange, the comments section was filled with questions about Cherry's mom. They were all wondering whether Cherry's mom was going to appear in the livestreams anymore.

Chapter 38: Learned A Lot

"Hello, everyone. I'm Cherry Baby's aunt, Orange! I'm really thrilled to have the opportunity to meet all of you. Cherry's mum will be very busy from now on. So I'll be helping out with Cherry's live streaming for a while. I think we'll get along well! Thank you!"

Fang Xiaocheng was very nervous as she spoke to the audience, and her voice was a little shaky. Luckily, she didn't make any mistakes.

The livestream continued according to the script, and the two partnered up quite well. Fang Xiaocheng began to relax in the midst of the process and started to focus.

Because Cherry had prepared two special episode for her return to Zstan, the number of fans had risen dramatically. More and more fans started to flood their live streaming.

Huo Yunshen sat at D office in the Yunhai Entertainment building. He was one of the fans watching the livestream.

What surprised him was that Cherry Baby had prepared a two-episode special edition stream.

Huo Yunshen had been watching livestreams for a few months, and he'd begun to grasp the fundamentals. When he saw other fans sending gifts to the cute little girl, he could not control his urge to send her gifts as well.

Suddenly the streaming page changed into celebratory settings. The system messages showed that a user, Tianshang Piaolai Yiduo Yun, had sent them a crystal carriage that was worth 10,000 Yuan.

Fang Xiaocheng's eyes were wide as she stared at the screen. Holy shit. Some billionaire just send us a ton of money!

If they split the 10,000, each of them could get 5,000 each.

Oh my god! So this is why people work as streamers...

The auction ended with Tianshang Piaozhe Yiduo Yun bidding 5,060 Yuan for the Succulent Knight.

After the stream ended, Fang Xiaocheng realized that she had learned a lot from it. She finally gave into the idea of being a livestreamer, and decided to follow Ying Bao for the rest of her life. They could livestream together and get very rich.

Since Fang Xiaocheng had finally settled her financial problem with livestreaming, she began to worry about Xu Xiyan.

"I thought you've always hated the showbiz? What made you decide on becoming an actress?"

After seeing Xu Xiyan's stunt performance earlier that day, she wondered if Xu Xiyan was in her right mind. Wouldn't it be great if you just continue doing live streaming with your daughter? Why would you choose the harder path?

But this was not the first time Xu Xiyan had acted; she had taken various acting jobs when she was still in Estan. Of course, most of them were minor characters or doubles, far from real acting.

A smile appeared on Xu Xiyan's face as she told Fang Xiaocheng the truth.

"It's true that I hate the showbiz. That field is filled with trash. Everyone uses each other, lies are everywhere...it's a place where only the strong have a hope at survival. Sometimes I think the place is like hell, itself, trapping thousands of souls with ease. I entered the showbiz not only because I love acting, but because I want to purge the devils lurking inside the industry."

She thought a moment before continuing.

"If the showbiz is an ocean, then I will become a..."

Xu Xiyan was trying to come up with the right term to refer herself when Fang Xiaocheng spoke.

"A Kraken?"

"No, no, no. More like Nezha who used to turn the whole ocean inside out. I...I really want to fulfill my mother's dying wishes. I want the people who hurt my mother to pay."

Xu Xiyan's eyes were filled with an embattled dedication as she continued to speak.

"..."

Fang Xiaocheng looked at Xu Xiyan quietly. Five years. The Xu Xiyan she once knew had changed entirely.

She had become more confident, braver, stronger. It was truly touching.

Of course, Fang Xiaocheng would support Xu Xiyan all the way. What worried her was Ying Bao.

"Yanyan, no matter what you do, I'll always stay by your side. But have you ever considered what will happen to Ying Bao when you become famous?"

Chapter 39: Who Wants To Become A Stepfather?

Xu Xiyan was silent for a moment, then she sighed.

"I'm also troubled by this. But Ying Bao is my daughter and no matter what the circumstances, I have a responsibility to protect her from harm."

Having said that, she considered the paparazzi of the entertainment circle, how well she knew that they were insatiable. How could she possibly keep them from finding out about Ying Bao?

Fang Xiaocheng had come up with an idea.

"Yanyan, I think I actually might have a way to solve this problem regarding Ying Bao."

"Go on."

"Just tell them that Ying Bao is your niece. When you're busy filming, you can put Ying Bao at my place. I'm not that busy with my flower shop business. anyway," she admitted.

"Oh, Orange, that's a great idea! You've thought it all out! How considerate of you! If you were a man, I would marry you in a heartbeat."

Xu Xiyan was so moved that she gave Fang Xiaocheng a hug. She was such a kind and caring friend. She was glad to have a friend as loyal as Fang Xiaocheng in her life.

Fang Xiaocheng smiled and patted her back, laughing. "I would marry you too, but I'm afraid Da Zhi wouldn't approve."

Ying Bao had overheard the conversation of the two adults. She understood her mother's difficulties and wanted to prove that she was not a burden to her mother. She said to Fang Xiaocheng:

"Auntie Orange, Baby is trying to make money every day. Lots and lots of money so I can buy a big beautiful house for Xi Baby, and beautiful clothes for Xi Baby, and a caring and handsome husband for Xi Baby..."

"What's a husband?" asked Fang Xiaocheng.

"Isn't Xi Baby's husband my daddy? Oh, Auntie Orange, how could you not figure that out!? Maybe you're not so bright after all!" Ying Bao shook his head.

Fang Xiaocheng: "..."

Uh...was I just patronized by a four-year-old kid?

Ying Bao continued to fantasize about her dream future.

"I also want to buy a big castle for Xi Baby so she can become a princess...and Baby wants to make Xi Baby the happiest mommy in the world..."

Happiest...

Ugh...

Fang Xiaocheng had no idea what to say. Is it that easy for a single mother to get happiness?

It was not that Fang Xiaocheng was being unsympathetic. Realistically speaking, it wouldn't be easy for Xu Xiyan to find another man to marry, as long she had a child to take care of. Who would want to be a stepfather?

But Xu Xiyan had never seen Ying Bao as a burden, and she loved her. If her daughter hadn't come into her life, how much happiness would she have missed out on for all these years?

Besides, Ying Bao was more mature than other children of her age. Ying Bao would never let her worry and, wherever she went, she would still feel the warmth of the little one.

With Fang Xiaocheng's help in caring for Ying Bao, Xu Xiyan could relax a little, relieved to have the support.

The next morning, Xu Xiyan decided to go redeem her mother's violin from the pawn shop.

Five years ago, in order to raise money for her studies abroad, Xu Xiyan had pawned her mother's violin for 100,000 Yuan. She had planned to redeem it after returning from abroad, and today was the deadline for the loan.

It was an heirloom left behind by her mother, and she knew she had to redeem it.

She opened her suitcase and looked for the pawn receipt, but she couldn't find it anywhere.

She tried to remember where she had left it.

Oh no...the receipt was in the pocket of the clothes I wore that day. Huo Yunshen changed my clothes... I wonder if he disposed of them...

It was a serious matter, and Xu Xiyan called Huo Yunshen at once.

Chapter 40: Felt Like Dying

It was break time at Yunhai Entertainment. A vintage phonograph sat atop a cupboard in the CEO's office, filling the space with piano music.

Huo Yunshen would only listen to music when he was in a good mood. The phonograph had been collecting dust for years, and it finally got to play some beautiful music again.

Music was one of Huo Yunshen's hobbies, and he was very talented. He could play various orchestra instruments. If he had pursued a music career from the start, he might've become a famous musician by now.

He was also proficient in writing lyrics and composing music. He had written and produced the ending theme for the movie that got him the award for international best actor, "24 Hours of Life."

As Huo Yunshen sat immersing himself in the music, he got a call from Xu Xiyan. He was both shocked and surprised by the call. He quickly turned off the music.

"Yunhai Entertainment. How may I help you?"

"Huo Yunshen... Oh, my apologies... Mr. Huo. I have something to ask you. Did you keep the dirty clothes that you helped me change out of the day before yesterday?"

"Yes. I just had them washed." Huo Yunshen could hear Xu Xiyan panting on the other side of the phone.

"Why? What's the matter?"

It's still there, Xu Xiyan was relieved. "Was there any paper in the pocket when you washed it?"

Huo Yunshen thought about it. "There was, but it was destroyed by the washing machine."

Huo Yunshen was not used to checking the pockets before washing his clothes. He would always soak the clothes in water and detergent before throwing them into the machine.

He only noticed that there was a piece of paper in the pocket after the clothes came out. By then, the paper had turned to pulp. It was impossible to read what was on it anymore.

Oh...

As soon as Xu Xiyan heard Huo Yunshen's reply, everything went black. It was like she was struck by lightning; she felt like dying on the spot.

"Was it important," Huo Yunshen asked.

If the receipt from the pawn shop is gone, how am I supposed to reclaim my mother's violin?

Oh, God! Are you trying to kill me?

"Hello? Xu Xiyan? Is that paper important?"

"No, it's not important. I'm fine. Goodbye."

After Xu Xiyan hung up, she felt like crying. Who could she blame?

Huo Yunshen helped her wash her clothes out of kindness. There was no way she could blame him. All she could do was blame her luck.

Even though she had lost the receipt, Xu Xiyan did not give up. She still wanted to go to the pawn shop and ask whether she could get her violin back without the receipt.

Xu Xiyan went to Peijing Pawn Shop, where she talked to the manager at the front desk. But he told her there was nothing to be done.

"We're sorry, ma'am. This is the rule of our pawn shop; we can't give you a free pass. Please understand. We won't be able to let you reclaim the violin unless you have the receipt. Maybe you could go back and look harder?"

Xu Xiyan left the pawn shop in such low spirits, the thought of ending her life even crossed her mind. I should've come and reclaimed the violin on the very first day I came back!

Today is the last day for me to reclaim it, and now the receipt is gone! What am I supposed to do?